



John Bel Edwards
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DRUG POLICY

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell
Director, Drug Policy &
Executive Director,
Diversity and Inclusion

Kristy Miller
Assistant Director

DRUG POLICY BOARD
July 9, 2020; 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Welcome and Introductions

Chaunda welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the Drug Policy Board. She explained that the meeting was allowed to be held virtually due to the suspension of some parts of the Open Meetings Law which have been allowed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the sake of time, Chaunda asked that voting members introduce themselves first and then members of the public would be allowed to either introduce themselves or type their names in the chat window to denote their attendance. After introductions, she announced that there were 14 members present so quorum was achieved. A list of all members and stakeholders who attended the virtual meeting is included at the end of this document.

Old Business

Review and approve minutes from previous meeting

Chaunda asked everyone to refer to the minutes that were emailed prior to the meeting. Kristy Miller, Assistant Director of the Office of Drug Policy, put the minutes up on the screen. Chaunda acknowledged the comprehensiveness of the minutes and then asked if there were any edits or amendments to be made. Hearing none, Buddy Schilling, Vice-President of Schilling Distributing, made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Joseph Kanter, Assistant State Health Director, seconded the motion. Vote by voice was made. All who were present agreed with the motion. None disagreed. None abstained.

New Business

A. Update on Drug Policy Board membership

There were no updates to the Drug Policy Board membership.

B. Presentation: LaCASU and new Opioid Education, Training, and Reporting Policy

Kristy introduced Dr. Allison Smith, Senior Program Manager of the Louisiana Center Addressing Substance Use in College Communities (LaCASU) at the Louisiana Board of Regents. Dr. Smith

introduced herself and shared some overview information about LaCASU. Of note, Allison explained that LaCASU has a role at the statewide level through Allison's membership on two important subcommittees of the Drug Policy Board – the Prevention Systems Committee and State Epidemiological Workgroup. She also explained that LaCASU has a coalition of colleges and universities across the state called LaHEC, the La Higher Education Coalition. Through LaHEC, she provides training and technical assistance to institutions of higher education on issues such as biennial review of substance abuse policies, implementing evidence-based best practices, implementing SBIRT services, and establishing collegiate recovery communities.

Allison shared data about opioid use rates among college students. She particularly focused on 30-day use of opioids by region. This data is available for Louisiana through one of LaCASU's initiative called the Core Alcohol and Drug Survey. She explained that opioid use among college students is not as big of a problem for Louisiana or the rest of the country as it is in other groups, particularly non-attending young adults in the same age category. Instead, what is a major problem with college students is stimulant use including but not limited to Adderall, Vyvanse, meth, and even cocaine. Allison did stipulate that college students don't tend to recognize problems with classes of drugs such as opioids, but rather, they recognize brand names such as Vicodin.

Because of concerns that there may be underreported opioid misuse due to students' lack of knowledge about drug classifications, LaCASU has been working with Louisiana's college campuses to implement a free, online education program specifically designed for college students called *Generation Rx-University*. The overall goal is to teach safe and healthy drug consumption practices such as only use prescription medications as directed by a healthcare professional, never share your medications with another individual nor take medications from someone else, and keep your medications safe. The good thing is that the Generation Rx-University module also addresses stimulant misuse. To further emphasize the efforts of her office, Allison briefly described the regional in-person trainings that are conducted by LaCASU. The regional trainings are for the college campus professionals as well as prevention services providers in the community who have interactions with college students.

Allison transitioned to discussing legislative interests in the area of opioid use among college students, particularly the provision of naloxone on college campuses. In 2020, four legislators filed bills that had something to do with this issue. Meanwhile, Allison and LaCASU had been spearheading the Louisiana Board of Regents' efforts to develop a comprehensive administrative policy which would be presented to the Board of Regents members and hopefully adopted. If adopted, the policy would be implemented on all public higher education institution campuses. Of course, the Board of Regents would also work with the LA Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to adopt the policy as well. Upon reviewing the bills filed by the legislators, Allison and the BoR knew their policy would be much more comprehensive. With that knowledge, the Board of Regents contacted the legislators to provide briefings on their plan to pass an administrative policy that would be more encompassing, but also more tailored to their constituency of higher education institutions.

The three major components of the Board of Regents policy, titled the Opioid Education, Training, and Reporting Policy, are (1) teaches students the dangers of opioid use and how to spot an overdose, (2) places free naloxone on each campus, and (3) establishes a reporting protocol for naloxone administration. LaCASU presented the policy to the Board of Regents at its June 2020 meeting and it was unanimously adopted by the Board. With that, LaCASU will be able to begin rolling out the elements of the policy immediately.

As Allison wrapped up her presentation, Chaunda congratulated her on behalf of the Drug Policy Board for being able to negotiate with lawmakers so they would be willing to suspend their efforts and support

the adoption of a systems-level policy developed by the body that understands higher education institutions best.

C. Status Update: 2020 legislative filings

Chaunda turned the presentation over to Kristy to conduct a brief presentation on the 2020 legislative actions of interest to the Drug Policy Board. Kristy explained that prior to the beginning of the legislative session, there were a good number of bills filed that had some association with drug policy. She referred everyone to the Drug Policy Bills Tracking Chart that was included in the meeting packet for specific information. In summary, there were 73 bills filed as of March 31 that we felt like would be relevant to the Office of Drug Policy. Kristy reminded everyone that the Legislature then delayed the start of the session until May due to the Stay-at-Home order. In May, it was determined that 20 bills would be moving forward. Kristy highlighted several of those 20 bills and described the outcome of them.

Other Business

A. Office of Drug Policy updates (includes HOPE Council, DWI Task Force, PSC, and SEW)

Chaunda announced that there were no further updates for the Drug Policy Board. Dr. Jim Hussey stated that he would like to move forward with a HOPE Council meeting with a meeting in September given that we are able to hold meetings virtually. Similarly, Lisa Freeman stated that she would like to move forward with a DWI Task Force meeting in July given that we are able to hold meetings virtually.

B. Member agency updates

Barry Robinson announced that the LA Department of Veterans Affairs has changed its process for Veterans and family meetings coming into the local offices. It is by appointment as we continue to serve our community.

Dr. Janice Williams announced that the LA Department of Health has been handling the massive undertaking of responding to the coronavirus epidemic. The Office of Behavioral Health is definitely doing its part by activating a Keep Calm hotline for mental health, behavioral health, and suicide assistance. There has been an increase in virtual screenings for co-occurring mental and behavioral health problems. Finally, Dr. Williams announced that LDH has been awarded a SAMHSA to provide increased behavioral health and substance use disorder services during the pandemic. She explained that early data reports are showing increases in both opioid and alcohol misuse among the public during this time.

Pat Magee mentioned that the Attorney General's office had worked with a legislator to file a bill to increase the number of drug courts in the state. After some concerns were addressed by the Louisiana Supreme Court, the bill was pulled and a resolution was filed to develop a commission to study the best way to grow the number of drug courts judiciously.

C. Public Comments

No members of the public offered any comments.

Upcoming Meetings

A list of upcoming meetings for all the board and commissions associated with the Office of Drug Policy was provided.

Adjournment

Chaunda announced that there was no additional business to address. With that, Pat Magee made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barry Robinson seconded the motion. By a live voice vote, all members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11am.

MEETING ATTENDEES

VOTING MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
Alcohol industry representative	Buddy Schilling	Yes
Attorney General's Office	Pat Magee	Yes
Board of Pharmacy	Malcolm Broussard	Yes
District Court Judge	Judge Jules Edwards	Yes
Federal agency with AOD ed/ treatment/prev responsibilities	Vacant	-----
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Dr. Chaunda Mitchell	Yes
House member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Vacant/Awaiting appointment from Speaker	No
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant/Commission no longer exists	-----
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier	Yes
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Vacant	----
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux	Yes
Louisiana Department of Health	Dr. Janice Williams	Yes
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Blake LeBlanc	Yes
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Warren Montgomery	Yes
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman	Yes
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Juana Lombard	Yes
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Remy Starns	Yes
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Shannon Dirmann	No
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Nugent	Yes
National Guard	Major Marshall Snowden	No
Physician	Dr. Joseph Kanter	Yes
Private organization involved in substance abuse prevention	Vacant	-----
Senate member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Senator Gerald Boudreaux	Yes

OF-COUNSEL MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Dr. Vincent Culotta	No
LA Department of Veteran's Affairs	Barry Robinson	Yes
Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education	Dr. Jim Hussey	Yes
Drug Enforcement Administration, NOLA Office	Lawrence Alexander	Yes
Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area	Don Petty	Yes

STAFF

Kristy Miller, Governor's Office of Drug Policy

GUESTS

Dr. Allison Smith, Board of Regents

Leslie Freeman, Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health

Dawn Diez, Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health

Jim Becnel, Jefferson Parish Alliance of Concerned Citizens

Marcus Bruno, Louisiana Alcohol and Tobacco Control

Dr. Murelle Harrison, Historically Black Colleges/Universities and Co-Chair of Prevention Systems Cmte

Cathy Childers, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission and Co-Chair of Prevention Systems Cmte

Amiee Moles, SREC
Carolyn Purser, SREC
Sam Robison, SREC
Alberto DePuy, Attorney General's Office